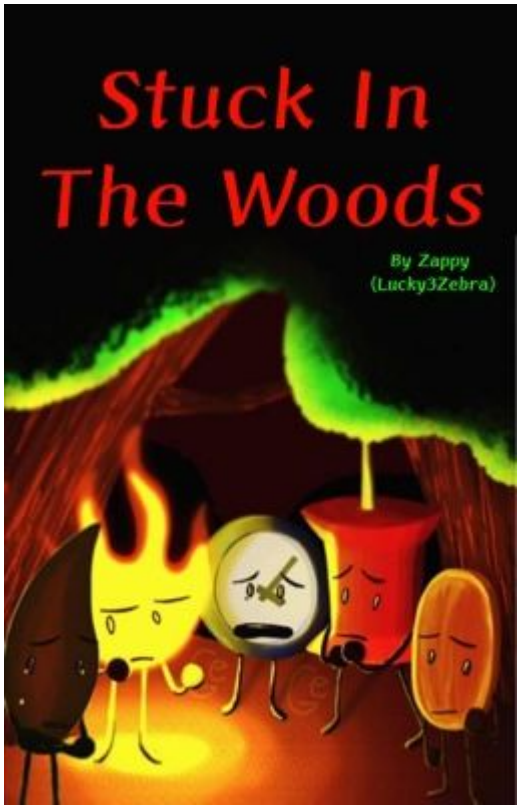
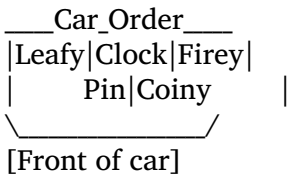

Stuck In
The Woods
By Zappy
(Lucky3Zebra)

CAR ORDER

Before I post the actual first part, I feel like this might be useful for showing where everybody is.



1

"What do you mean you didn't stop it?!"

"I don't know! It just stopped!" Coiny yelled back at Clock. They had been driving for hours, trying to get to the new amusement park that was built just on the other side of the woods.

"Well, start it again!" Clock barked, and Coiny stepped on the pedal multiple times, tested the key a few times, but nothing worked.

"It still isn't starting," Coiny said, repeating his attempts to start the car up again.

"Ugh, way to go Coiny! I told you we should've got gas from the last stop!" Firey yelled, waking Leafy up from a nap.

"What's all the ruckus?" she asked tiredly. She was carsick earlier, which was the reason she went to sleep. Firey sighed guiltily, feeling bad for waking her up. "The car ran out of gas because Coiny didn't put it in at the last stop."

Coiny rolled his eyes. "It wasn't even running out! It was still half full! I-it just stopped on its own!"

Leafy scowled. "Well *I* really want to just be there already! I'm gonna get fresh air."

Leafy opened the door to the truck, and hopped out. Pin was silent, not really wanting to get involved.

"Ugh, what did you do to it?" Clock asked annoyedly. Coiny glared back at him.

"I told you guys! I don't know! I was just driving and it stopped!"

Firey rolled his eyes. "How about we just calm down and think this

through." he said, then turning to Pin. "Pin, do you know what happened?"

Coiny glared at Firey, and Pin said, "N-no! He looked like he was driving normally the whole time! It just all of a sudden... stopped..."

Clock let out a long sigh. "So we are stuck out here?"

"I guess so." Coiny replied, annoyance still heavy in his tone.

"I'm gonna go check on Leafy," Firey said, opening his door. Clock followed, hopping out as well.

Coiny groaned in frustration, as he looked at all the switches and buttons and levers and pedals, trying to figure out what he was doing wrong, before he heard Pin.

"Hey," she said, "why don't you take a break? Maybe get some fresh air with the others? Cool down."

Coiny sighed. "I guess..." He left the car, slamming the door, and Pin left her side as well.

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"Leafy, calm down!" Firey said, holding her hand as she squeezed his. Leafy was sitting leaning on a tree. "Tell me what's wrong!"

Leafy sobbed, but stayed silent. Clock watched awkwardly, yet pitifully.

"W-whats going on?" asked Pin, who came over to the tree. Clock cleared his throat and said, "We just came to Leafy and she was crying... she won't tell us why..."

Pin kneeled down next to Firey, facing Leafy. "Hey, you'll be okay." she said comfortingly. Leafy shook her head, and stopped gripping Firey's hand, pulling hers away even.

"Get away from me!" she yelled, Firey and Pin immediately backing away. "I-I want to be alone!"

Firey nodded sadly, and Pin muttered, "O-okay..."

Clock followed the two as they walked back near the road, where Coiny was pacing around it, inspecting everything from the tires to the gas cap.

"I-I can't find out what's wrong!" he yelled, still pretty steamed. Pin looked at the sky. "I-I think maybe we will have to camp here guys, it's getting dark..."

Clock groaned. "This is completely awful! We are stuck in the woods! And now we will have to sleep here!"

"Clock could you stop complaining!" Firey yelled. Clock rolled his eyes. "I'm not the one who didn't get gas!"

"You don't even know how to drive armless idiot!" Coiny snapped, and Firey and Pin gasped.

"Y-yeah well, if I did, I wouldn't make such a dangerous mistake!" Clock replied, running out of things to say.

"The gas isn't even empty you idiots," Coiny mumbled, "I checked, it's not my fault..."

Clock frowned, and walked off. Firey left to talk to Leafy again. Pin went up to Coiny. "D-don't you think that was a little harsh? Like... the arm thing..."

"Pin, please just, let me focus, okay? Just... keep them away from me right now. You guys could go to sleep in the truck."

Pin nodded sadly, and went off to get the others.

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"Leafy please, please talk to me!" Firey pleaded, as she tried to calm down.

"I-I can't tell you," Leafy replied in a fearful, shaky voice.

"B-but Leafy! We tell eachother everything!" Firey whined, and Leafy

took a deep breath.

Leafy sighed. "This is different. I promise that I am okay, but if I tell you I won't be. Understand?"

Firey stared curiously and concerned, but nodded. Maybe she was right?

Leafy smiled weakly and stood up. Pin came over to them. "Everything going alright? Coiny said we could sleep in the car!"

Leafy laughed nervously. "Ah, yeah... I'm okay now! Just... just felt carsick..."

Pin smiled. "Glad to hear that!"

Firey stared at Leafy with suspicion. Something was definitely off. But he decided to try ignoring it for now. He was tired.

The three headed to the truck. Clock was already fast asleep inside. Firey hopped in his side, and Leafy hopped in on her's. Pin almost hopped into the passenger seat, but noticed Coiny hadn't come in yet.

She sighed, and got back out, and walked hesitantly to Coiny, who was inspecting underneath the car now.

"Hey, uh, don't you think it'd be good if you got rest?" she asked.

"I-I still have no clue what's wrong though!" Coiny sputtered. Pin grabbed his hand. "C'mon, you're probably tired. You could figure it out in the morning!"

Coiny got up. "Maybe you're right... I do feel pretty tired..."

The two went into the car and onto the front seats.

Leafy was in the back, leaning on her window, but still wide awake. Firey and Clock were both sound asleep. Coiny was asleep, and Pin was cozy, and falling asleep as well.

2

Clock woke up. He felt cold... He usually slept in a bed, with blankets on.... The hotel near the amusement park would have blankets.

He opened his eyes, and noticed Firey was gone. No wonder. He looked to his other side. Leafy was gone too.

He thought for a moment, before deciding maybe he should just go back to sleep. Perhaps it was better he didn't go looking for them.

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"Leafy!" Firey called, sprinting towards the sound. "Leafy where are you?!"

Leafy was throwing up next to a tree... Firey finally spotted her, and ran over.

"Leafy! Wh-what's wrong?! Do you still feel sick?!" Firey asked frantically.

Firey waited for Leafy to stop, rubbing her back soothingly. "You're gonna be okay," he said comfortingly.

Once Leafy finally stopped, she muttered, "I'm ready to go back now." Firey helped her up, and held her hand as they walked back towards the truck.

"Wh-why did you come so far in here?" Firey asked. Leafy rubbed her head. "I didn't want to wake you and the others up."

Firey snickered. "I really wouldn't mind waking up to help you when you're sick! Plus I woke up anyways, so..."

Leafy smiled weakly, and said, "Aw, you're so sweet..."

When the two arrived back at the car, everybody else seemed to be asleep, before Clock murmured, half-awake, "Where were you guys?.." Leafy looked down at the Clock, who was shivering, and noticed he must've not brang a blanket with him.

"She got sick again, but she's okay now," Firey replied in a whisper, not wanting the other two to wake up. Leafy put her blanket over Clock, for until Firey warms up the car again.

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Morning came and Clock was first to wake up. He barely remembered waking up last night, and barely recalled Leafy putting a blanket on him.

He stared at Leafy, who was twitching a bit, and then at Firey, who was sleeping quietly.

Pin woke up, and stared back, noticing Clock. "Oh! You're awake!" she said awkwardly. "Uh, I'm going outside.."

Pin quietly exited the car. Clock would have followed, but was in between Firey and Leafy, and didn't want to wake them up.

He wondered where they left to last night...

Pin looked around her. "Maybe I could call Needle to help us!" She pulled out her phone, and went to call, but... no signal.

"Ugh, isn't that great," she murmured to herself.

Eventually the others left the car, Pin letting them know that they can't call anybody. Clock said that he would try to find signal. Coiny decided to keep investigating his truck. Leafy went and leaned on a tree, and Firey stood nearby.

"WHAT THE HECK?!?!" Coiny yelled, as the other three nearby flinched.

Pin went over to him, very cautiously. "C-Coiny? Are you okay?"

"Pin... this is insane..."

"What is?" Pin asked, and noticed Coiny pointing to a huge hole in the tire.

"I-is that why the car stopped?" Pin asked, wondering how such a huge hole tore in the tire.

Coiny shook his head. "I looked all over this truck yesterday, this wasn't there... Plus uh... it looks like something bit out of it..."

Pin stared back down at the tire. It did look like something could've bit out of it.

"Do you think it was a bear???" Pin asked, "Or a wolf?!"

Coiny scratched his head. "I-I have no clue but... I think we're going to be stuck out here for a while..."

Leafy and Firey walked up to them. "What's going on?" Firey asked, which Coiny pointed at the tire again.

Leafy stared down at the tire, and an uneasy feeling washed over her. "S-something bit it?! That's odd!" she said, beads of sweat appearing on her face.

Firey took a few steps back. "I think Leafy might be getting sick," he said to the other two, and Leafy walked back to the tree.

"Shes been acting kind of... different," Coiny said, watching as Leafy sat at the tree nervously.

Pin stared at the leaf as well. "Do we have any medicine in the car?"

Coiny shrugged. "Maybe... I'll check."

Firey stared at the gaping hole. Was it a bite? How was Leafy so sure? Was she a survival expert?!

Pin went down to the tree. "Hey Leafy, you okay?" Leafy groaned, and said, "I've just felt really dizzy... and nauseous... ever since we got in this darn forest!"

Pin patted Leafy's back. "We'll be okay! Soon we will be able to call

Needle and... then she could get us out of here! In fact, maybe Clock is calling her right now!"

"And if he doesn't find signal?" Leafy muttered. Pin fell nervously silent for a moment, before sighing. "Leafy, c'mon, you are an optimist are you not?"

Leafy rolled her eyes. "How could I be optimistic in a time like this? I'm sick, I'm in one of my least favorite places, I keep having nightmares! I'll be optimistic when we are at Goiky Wonders! Or back in the city! But as long as we are stuck in this darn forest, I have no reason to be happy!"

Pin groaned. "You know what. Fine. You could be upset. But the rest of us are going to try and get us out of here okay? Just please have a little hope?" Pin muttered, her voice a bit shaky.

Leafy felt a hint of guilt wash over her. "Sure," she said weakly, and Pin went to see if Coiny had any luck finding medicine.

3

Clock let out a sigh as he checked his phone for signal again... Nope. He began to hike up a hill, wondering if that would help.

He felt a sharp sting on his ankle, causing him to wince. "What is that?" he muttered, staring down to notice a small spider.

"Get off!" He yelled, flinging it off him onto the ground. Nervousness filled his mind, until he turned his attention back to finding signal.

He made it to the top of the hill, and checked again... Signal! He quickly got onto his phone before... growling.

He paused, looking around him, dead silent... where was it coming from? He felt himself sweat nervously, and stared back down at his phone. No signal.

The growling got louder, and began to sound closer...

"G-Get away from me!" he yelled, as the atmosphere felt darker and darker every time he blinked.

He screamed, and sprinted away as fast as he can, accidentally dropping his phone in the process.

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"SHE WAS JUST HERE!" Pin yelled, a look of shock on her face. "WHERE DID SHE GO?!"

Coiny squinted confusedly, at the tree Leafy was at. "You didn't hear her leave? It seems like something that would make some noise, doesn't it?"

Pin stared at the tree, still very bewildered. "I-I didn't hear her at all! She must've snuck off or something?"

"Wait, who's gone?" Firey asked, getting out of the truck.

"Leafy! She just... disappeared!" Pin yelled, and Firey's face turned into a panicked expression.

"B-but she's sick! We gotta find her!" Firey yelled.

"BE QUIET!" Coiny yelled. "Do you guys hear that?"

The group grew silent, and they heard rushed footsteps... Running footsteps...

"Its her! Its her!" yelled Firey, running towards the sound, before saying, "Oh nevermind, its Clock."

"G-guys! We r-really need to g-get out of here!" Clock said shakily.

Firey shook his head. "We need Leafy first!"

Clock's face went even more panicked. "SHE LEFT?!"

The other three nodded, each concerned. "Th-there was growling in the woods... It wasn't good..."

"I'm not leaving without Leafy!" yelled Firey, and Pin nodded hesitantly, and Coiny asked Clock, "Did you find signal?"

Clock sighed. "Yeah, but-" "BUT?!?! YOU DID?!"

Clock flinched a bit. "It wasn't... very good... and something was angry..."

Coiny headpalmed. "WE COULD'VE BEEN SAVED! YOU JUST HAD TO MAKE THE CALL! YOU COULD'VE WAITED JUST A LITTLE LONGER!"

Clock stared at the ground annoyedly. He wasn't too sure what the heck was going on anymore.

"Hey what's all the yelling about?" asked a familiar voice, coming out of the trees.

Firey jumped up, "Leafy!!! Thank gosh you're back!!!"

Leafy snickered a bit. "Oh, no worries warm one! Just went for a little stroll!"

Coiny let out a sigh of relief. "Clock ALMOST got signal, but was being a scaredy cat and didn't get it."

Firey smiled brightly, and said, "Me and Coiny found some stomach medicine for you!!! So now you could not be sick anymore!!!"

Leafy twitched a bit, then held her head as a piercing pain shot through it, suddenly. "Wh-what?"

"We got you stomach medicine!!!" Firey bursted again.

Leafy was silent for a second. "Oh yeah! Thanks!"

Clock trudged over to the truck. Maybe he could take a nap... It wasn't a very good day for him. He was bitten by a spider, was unable to get signal because of some odd experience, dropped his phone somewhere in the forest, and now everybody was dissappointed in him for not getting the signal.

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He woke up, as a horrible pain was filling his ankle. "Oh, I forgot about that," he muttered to himself, staring at the swelling spider bite. He stared out the window. The others were all just... sitting there...

"Hypocrites," he muttered to himself, before opening the car door and stepping out.

"Oh hey Clock," Firey greeted. Clock felt a wave of dizziness wash over him as he walked over to the group.

"Hey its Clock!" Coiny exclaimed. "Have a good nap?" he asked.

Clock nodded weakly, "Y-yeah.."

Pin stared at Clock nervously for a second, before saying, "You sure? You look a little... tired."

"I'm fine guys, don't worry about it," Clock said, pain shooting through his leg.

Firey stared at Clock, and then noticed his leg was swollen. "Dude, what the heck happened to your leg?"

Clock laughed for a few seconds, feeling nauseous, before saying, "Oh uh, spider thing, just kinda bit me I guess haha."

Coiny stared at his leg as well. "How long since you were bit?"

Clock winced as another wave of pain went through his leg. "J-just a few hours I think, not too long."

"Looks like we'll have to chop it off!" Leafy snickered, grinning mischievously.

Clock shot up, only for his leg to numb and him to fall down again. "N-no! I-th-this is the only other leg I have! I-I can't lose it!"

Pin rolled her eyes. "We aren't cutting off your leg," she said.

Clock layed on the ground, fearfully staring at the sky.

"I think he's lost it," Coiny said.

"I think maybe we have medicine for it," Firey said, heading back to the truck.

Clock growled. "It's not my fault I was chased! My-my phone! I dropped it!"

Clock attempted getting back up again, but whimpered as the pain followed and numbness returned.

Pin rushed over, and said "Clock, you know how bad this is?! Stop pretending this is okay! It's not!"

Clock snickered. "Yeah yeah, okay okay, might as well chop 'em both off!"

Pin scowled. "Clock! We are NOT chopping off your limbs!"

Clock laughed, and layed on the ground.

"I'm back!" Firey said, with a first aid kit. "I wasn't sure which was for what so I brought the whole thing!"

Pin grabbed the first aid kit from him, and began to look through what they had. "Well I guess first we should clean it? Do we have water?"

Coiny handed Pin a water bottle, and she grabbed Clock's foot.

"AH WHAT'RE YOU DOING?!" Clock yelled, and Coiny rolled his eyes. "Clock calm the heck down we are trying to fix your leg so it... doesn't get worse."

"DON'T TOUCH IT." Clock yelled, staring nervously at the sky.

Coiny smirked facing the other way. "Would you rather we chop it off?"

Clock went silent. "That's what I thou-"

"COINY! HE JUST PASSED OUT!" Pin yelled angrily.

Coiny stared back at the two. "O-oh... Well, uh easier for us I guess?"

Pin sighed and poured water on the bite. "We should probably wrap it in bandages too... maybe give him some painkillers when he wakes up?"

Coiny nodded. "Yeah..."

Meanwhile Leafy watched from a few feet away.

Unpleasant thoughts clouding her mind.

4

[GORE/VIOLENCE WARNING]

Night had fallen again. The group was running out of snacks, only having 3 granola bars left, which the four who were awake, (all except Clock,) agreed to use them for emergencies.

Pin, Coiny, Firey, and Leafy, all were in the truck, ready to sleep.

"Ugh Clock is sweating," Firey scowled, "And sweat is like water!"

"Its not like he's going to sweat a river! It's probably your fault he is anyways," Coiny said smugly.

Leafy yawned. "Guys, could you quiet it down? I want to get some sleep, don't you?"

The two nodded, sending silent glares toward eachother, then preparing to sleep.

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Leafy shifted in her sleep. Her stomach was feeling sick, and she could tell something bad was going to happen.

And she woke up. Clock was still sweating like crazy, and his leg was still wrapped in bandages.

Leafy felt a wave of dizziness and pain wash over her, then grabbed Clock by his rim, and quietly exited the car.

Out into the forest she went, Clock slowly regaining consciousness. "W-what?" he murmured, slowly opening his eyes.

Leafy walked quicker, going farther and farther from the truck.

"Leafy? W-where are we going?" He asked, extreme confusion filling his tone.

Finally she arrived to an open area, where a large string hung in a loop on a tree, a knife lay on a rock, and a hammer and some nails on the ground.

She sat him down so he leaned on the rock, and picked up the knife.

"L-Leafy? What's going on? What are we doing here?!"

Leafy grinned evilly. "Ah, you got bit by a spider! The poison is travelling through your body this second! I wouldn't want you dying would I?"

Clock's pupils shrank as he realized what was going on. "N-no! Y-you can't chop it off! That isn't fair!"

Leafy stared at the knife, a huge grin still plastered on her face, and Clock decided to try making a run for it.

Unfortunately, one of his legs was completely unusable, and one leg is not enough to run.

Leafy grabbed him by his ankle, covered in bandages, and sliced through them.

Clock winced, although it was surprisingly numb. Maybe the spider bite WAS getting bad.

Leafy let out a sigh. "Ah, this won't work! Not one bit!"

Clock let out a semi-relieved sigh. "S-so you won't chop it off?! I-Im sure if I die I could be brought back and- and I won't be sick anymore!"

Leafy went to the tree, pulling an axe from behind it. "Ah, this should work," she said with a smirk.

Clock got up, but ended up falling back down with a grunt. "P-please! I beg! I-I want both my legs!" Clock yelled, teary-eyed.

Leafy stepped on his back, to make sure he didn't move too much.

"Don't worry Clock, everything will be o...kay..."

Clock felt as unbelievable pain struck him in the leg.

"Y-YOU MONSTER! THAT'S NOT-! THAT'S NOT WHERE THE BITE IS!" Clock screamed, as Leafy finished the job.

"Oh, why are you crying strong one? Not so useful now huh?" Leafy said, chuckling lightly. Clock fainted, and Leafy noticed the blood was leaving quick...

But she didn't want him to die. She wanted him to s u f f e r. And luckily, she was prepared for that.

"Oh, what's this," she said, grabbing first aid, only realizing Clock didn't respond, leading her to rolling her eyes.

She cleaned up the area which she chopped his perfectly healthy leg off, and wrapped it in bandages. She then stared at the other leg.

"Heh, he will turn soon enough," she snickered, and stared at the nails and hammer. "Of course, he will still make the effort to leave," she murmured, "unless I do this..."

She smiled, proud of how strategic she was with her plan, hammering a nail into the top of Clock's back, and hanging him on the loop.

"That will keep him from getting away!" She laughed. And heard a *ding* from a nearby stump.

She walked over and picked up a phone... Clock's phone.

Leafy snickered again, seeing Clock got a message from Needle.

"I hope you guys are having fun! When you get back, be sure to tell me about it, so maybe the two of us could go sometime!" she read, making her voice higher to mock Needle.

Leafy was going to leave, but couldn't resist the chance to respond.

"Oh yes! We are having SO MUCH fun Needle! In fact, I would LOVE to come here again! Miss you! Heart, heart, heart," Leafy said as she typed, becoming a bit annoyed by the fact Clock wasn't awake to hear it.

"Send," she said, getting a headache from trying to keep the corruption, before she turned back to normal again.

She noticed the sun almost peaking over the mountain, and flinched a bit, throwing Clock's phone onto the ground and running.

She had to get back before the others woke up.

She had to get back or else it would be suspicious.

She had to get back and finish her plan for revenge.

Her body began to twitch, and she hyperventilated as she ran towards the truck. She eventually collapsed on the ground near the truck, and calmed herself down a bit, before quietly getting into the truck, and falling asleep.

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Once the sun was shining bright, Coiny was first to wake up.

He looked over at Pin. Who was waking up as well, and then looked back at... Leafy and Firey.

"Where's Clock?!" he yelled, making Pin flinch and Firey wake up. Leafy was still asleep.

Firey stared beside himself. "Wh? On a walk perhaps?"

Coiny rolled his eyes. "Why so early though?! We never heard him leave!"

Firey groaned. "Well it's not my fault he left!"

"Well I'm gonna go look for him," Coiny said, leaving the car.

Pin stumbled out as well. "I'm coming with you!"

Meanwhile, Firey looked over at Leafy, who was still fast asleep. Her feet were blistered. Were they like that yesterday? Maybe it was too dark for him to notice?

Firey stared out his window. Wouldn't somebody have known if Clock left? He sat in between him and Leafy... Firey didn't recall waking up to let Clock out.

He stared suspiciously at the sleeping leaf. What were they doing last night? Does Leafy know where Clock is?

He sighed, and left the car to get fresh air.

[Not proud of this Chapter hhhh]

5

After a few minutes of waiting for Leafy to wake up, Firey gave up and exited the car. It was kind of lonely. Leafy was still fast asleep, and everybody else was... Well he wasn't sure.

Meanwhile Coiny and Pin were wandering through the woods.

"How far do you think he went? He can't be too far, could he?" Pin asked in a voice of concern.

Coiny held Pin's hand comfortingly. "Hey, he's strong if he could walk out here in the state he's in! I bet he will be back at the camp before we are!"

Pin smiled, the thought relieving. "R-really?"

"Yes Pin, I'm sure he's okay. Why don't we see of there's a lake? We may need it if we run out of water!"

Pin sighs. "Yeah, let's look for a lake."

And the two head off, to find a lake.

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Leafy wakes up, barely remembering anything from last night.

She rubs her head. "Ugh, what?" she felt a wave of nausea hit her again. "Shoot, did-? No, it.. it was a dream!"

She exited the truck, noticing only Firey out there, sitting on a rock.

"Hey, Firey... where is everybody?" Leafy asked, hiding her nervousness.

Firey sighed. "Do you know where Clock went? He had to have left

your side right? He wasn't there when we woke up..."

Memories of the night emerged in Leafy's mind. "I-I don't know," Leafy stuttered, before breaking down.

"Hey, hey! It's okay! Pin and Coiny are going to find him!"

But that only made Leafy feel worse. If the two find him then-

"We're back!" Coiny exclaimed, and scanned the area. "Oh, he's not here?"

Leafy kept crying, and Firey rubbed her back comfortingly.

"You didn't find him Coiny?! You had ONE job!"

"Wh-?! Oh, while you just sat here the whole time! Yeah, yeah, next time you could go!"

Pin butted in, saying, "We did find water though! Not too far either!"

This gave the two an excuse to stop arguing.

"Did you get some?" Firey asked, to which Coiny replied, "We need a bucket... to hold it in."

"And you saw no signs of where Clock went?" Firey asked.

"No... maybe he was eaten by whatever chomped our tire... we will revive him when we get home..." Coiny said, dissappointedly, but clinging on to the few bits of hope that they had.

Meanwhile, Leafy was just crying. She just wanted to leave. She didn't like it there.

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Clock woke up... With a horrible pain in the upper back of his head... and hanging by a tree. Both his legs were completely numb... Well one of them, once he remembered the other was mostly chopped off.

He tried using the few upper body strength he had to swing off of... the string he was on.

After around half an hour, he finally fell on the ground. "D-dang i-t-t..." he muttered, realizing actually escaping might be harder than he thought.

He sat up, with some struggle, and looked around himself. He gagged at the sight of his... other leg... but his face lightened upon noticing the sun reflect on a phone screen!

"I-I-I coul-d-d fi-nd s-signal!" he exclaimed, trying to give himself motivation. "Just... t-try roll-lling C-clock! Yo-ou ar-re round! Y-you cou-ld roll-ll!"

Clock slowly managed to roll in the phone's direction, and slammed the power button, managed to get into the contacts and- no signal.

Clock let out a frustrated groan, and his eyes filled with tears. He felt exhausted, but couldn't risk Leafy touching him again...

He grabbed the phone with his mouth, and he began his very slow trip, away from the area. He wasn't too sure where he was headed... but he had to get away...

6

The four began walking to the lake, Coiny leading, Firey and Pin calming down Leafy.

"Don't worry! When we get home we could revive him!" Firey said.

Leafy tried calming herself down.

"We're here!" Coiny said after hours of walking. The four gazed at the beautiful lake, which glowed beautifully in contrast to the dark forest. Firey took a few steps back, not wanting to be too close and risk hurting himself.

Leafy's eye twitched, and she let out a sigh. "Pin, you brought the bucket?"

Pin held it up. "Yep! I'll get the water!" She ran to the lake, and dunked the bucket in, and then splashed Coiny a bit, making him giggle.

"Ah, Pin!" He laughed, "I'm all wet now!"

Pin snickered and Leafy smiled at the scene...

And then smiled at the lake.

And then stared at the flame a few steps away, and then at the bucket and everything.

"Leafy you okay?"

Leafy flinched, and noticed Coiny staring at her. "Its, uh, time to go... sorry if I distracted you from whatever you were thinking about..."

Leafy smiled sweetly. "Oh, no Coiny! You didn't distract me at all! I pl- I wasn't thinking anything important anyways!"

Coiny grinned back. "Okay, cool! Let's go!"

The group began heading back to the area where their truck was parked.

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Clock let out another wheeze. He had been managing to move for hours now, and his body felt tired and weak, but he had to keep going.

During the time he was moving, something odd had happened. His leg, which was chopped off, was growing back? Maybe the poison was getting to his head, or maybe something really strange was happening.

Eventually he was almost able to move his numbed leg as well... not to the point where it was very useful, but it was progress. He used it to nudge himself further. Closer to the mountain. Closer to where he found the signal before.

He was nearly there... but then he would have to go uphill... Worrisome thoughts began clouding his mind. What if the beast came back? What if he gets bit again? What if Leafy finds him?

He shook them away, and tried his hardest, to make his way up the mountain.

7

[I'm not supposed to be here but I don't want to post this a week late so... I'm also pretty stressed and my family's truck broke down yesterday which is ironic and the reason I wanted to write this again.]

[BLOOD/VIOLENCE WARNING]

Firey carefully heated the bucket, as Coiny talked with the other two.

"So I still have no clue what happened to it, but even if I do, i will not be able to drive it because of the hole. So we will probably have to get it towed," Coiny explained.

"What if the tow truck breaks down?" Leafy asked, but sounding sure it would.

Coiny rolled his eyes. "That's impossible, or really unlikely! If we can't I'll just have to buy a new car..."

"How about signal? We cannot call towing people without signal," Pin pointed out.

"New car it is!" Coiny yells, clearly upset about his wrecked car. "I don't know how they'd fix it anyways. It is literally broken for no reason."

"Guys the water is boiling! Could I leave now?!" Firey yelled, scared the water would get on him.

"Yeah yeah! That's good!" Coiny said, walking over to him.

Firey backed away from the bucket, as the water bubbled noisily.

Leafy felt herself twitch, then said, "Hey, didn't Clock say he found signal?"

Pin jumped up. "Yeah, he did! So there must be some somewhere!"

Everybody's eyes brightened with hope for a moment. "We should look for it!" Pin exclaimed with a smile.

Coiny laughed. "Maybe tomorrow, the sun is setting."

The group snuggled into the truck, and prepared for sleep.

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Leafy was tired, but couldn't sleep. She couldn't let the corruption steal her mind yet again. She didn't want it to take over somebody else's either.

She exited the truck quietly, and sprinted towards the area she remembered leaving Clock.

But when she arrived... a shriveled leg, blood, some dirt traced in a direction...

She followed the path. She had to find Clock. She had to find him before it was too late.

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Clock was pushing himself, with his leg almost grown back. It didn't feel the same though. His new leg felt like betrayal, and anger, and abandonment. Had anybody came looking for him?

His stomach growled. He had been extremely hungry recently, not eating nor drinking in over a day. He set down his phone, managed to turn it on with the only partial limb he could use, and checked for signal.

It was the same place but... no signal.

"C-come on, why?!" he yelled. "Why are you not working?!"

He began to sweat and screamed, "WHY WON'T YOU WORK!"

His vision began to blur and he fell onto the ground. "That's no fair!

You worked before! I-I don't know what I'm doing wrong!"

Tears formed in his eyes. "I-I miss my friends..."

"C-Clock?"

Clock flinched. "Leafy get away from me!" He yelled.

Leafy walked over to him, staring at his unusable leg and corrupted leg. "I-I'm sorry Clock," she said shakily.

Clock pushed him self away. "N-no! G-get away from me! I need the signal!"

Leafy grabbed Clock by his bitten leg, and pulled him closer.

"Clock j-just listen, th-that wasn't me, I mean... I don't want you to end up like I did," she whispered, teary-eyed.

Clock stared at her. She looked sincere. She sounded sincere. But was she?

"What do you mean, like you?" he grumbled, holding in his tears.

Leafy noticed a nail still in the back of Clock's head, and pulled it out.

"GAH, STOP!" Clock yelled angrily, feeling dizzier by the second. He collapsed, hyperventilating.

"I-I'm sorry... But I have to do this..." Leafy held Clock down with her foot, and held the axe once again.

"N-NO! YOU CAN'T!" Clock yelled, beginning to cry.

Leafy cried aswell, and shakily lifted up the axe.

Leafy was then kicked. Hard. Onto a rock.

"Y-you think you could kill me?!" Clock said, standing up. "Well you were wrong! I always knew you guys didn't like me, but found it really hard to come to terms... but now I see. You guys don't care about me at all, do you?"

Leafy shook multiple times, and coughed a bit. "Oh no, Clock this isn't you!"
Clock stared at his legs. One which grew back within a day... was that possible? And one which unnumbed within seconds. He shook his head.

"I'm f-fed up with all of you! I, I hate you guys!" he yelled, anger slowly but surely building up inside him.

"Clock, please," Leafy grabbed him by the sides, and pulled him into a hug.

"W-what are you doing?" Clock sputtered.

"Clock, you are a wonderful person, and I can't let some stupid spider change that," she whispered.

Clock, feeling confused as ever, passed out.

Leafy put him down carefully.

"Its never too late to try," she whispered to herself, lifting the axe yet again, and swiftly... chopping off both legs.

Blood bled all over. Clock still slept.

She then brought him down to where the lake was. He had to die.

She watched the bubbles of air escape him as he sank, and she then felt herself twitch uncontrollably.

"Why... why would I do that?! I am OBVIOUSLY THE ONE WHO DID THIS. HE WILL BE REVIVED. WE WERE SUPPOSED TO RETURN HOME BY TOMORROW."

She took some time to think, and then smiled, rushing over to the area her victim was killed, picking up his phone.

"Needle, we have decided to stay over here a bit longer! Maybe another week? It's just so fun and none of us want to leave! I am still perfectly healthy too! Maybe even healthier than you are, and that's saying something! Anyways, bye Needle!" Leafy typed very quickly.

"Send."

She let out an anxious sigh. "I can't believe this. I was supposed to make him suffer... if this goes wrong... it won't go wrong! It's a fool-proof plan!"

She twitched again. "Shut up you idiot! Y-you are lying to everybody! You have to leave! I don't like you and..." Leafy stared at the phone angrily, and began typing a new message.

"Needle, come get Coiny, Firey, and Pin. Evil Leafy trapped us in the woods and Clock is dead because of that. If you do not hurry, the others will be killed too."

Leafy was about to send, but began shaking like crazy.

"NO!" She yelled, throwing the phone on the the rock, shattering the screen and denting the phone.

"You really think I won't get away with this!" She told herself.

"You really think you will?" She said smugly... to herself.

She cleaned herself in the clean portion of lake water, and went back to the truck.

8

The next day Coiny woke up bright and early to start searching for signal. The sun was only rising, and everybody else was asleep.

He grabbed his phone, and left the car quietly, not wanting to wake the others up. He decided to check the lake for signal first.

Upon arriving, he noticed the water looked a bit... muckier? Maybe it was the lighting, but it didn't look as clean and lively as it did yesterday.

He checked for signal, but alas, no signal.

He sighed and began walking in another direction, before letting out a gasp upon seeing something utterly horrific.

A pair of legs lay on the ground, and an axe lay near that. Also a dented phone near a rock... Clock's phone.

"O-oh my... i-is this... Clock..." Coiny picked up the dented phone. It was too broken to turn on.

"I... Who... Why would somebody do this?" Coiny shook his head. "M-maybe signal is near here! Plus, he... could still be alive... if not he will be alive! Somebody will revive him! Limbless but..."

Coiny felt heavy guilt crowd his mind. Should he have payed more attention?

He felt fear strike him. What if the murderer was still out there?! They had to leave as soon as possible. Searching for signal was too risky at this point.

He began running back to the truck.

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"I could find him," Leafy told Pin, "I mean, I've... We've been in these woods, haven't we?"

Pin shrugged. "I-I'm not sure... what if he was kidnapped?"

"Guys! I see him!" Firey exclaimed, pointing towards a figure quickly coming closer.

"Oh," Leafy said in response, and Pin let out a sigh of relief.

Coiny ran up to the group. "G-guys we have to leave, as soon as possible, I- Clock- he... Dead!"

The other three stared at the panicked coin. Pin held his hand reassuringly. "Don't worry, we will find signal, and then people will come get us!"

Coiny shook his head. "No you don't understand! Something- someone is out to kill us! Finding signal is too risky!"

"Coiny come on, we will be revived! What are you so worried about?" Firey said reassuringly, but it wasn't enough.

"Guys, I... You don't get it... Needle probably thinks we are having fun at the amusement park or something... How long will it take her to revive us?" Coiny asked gripping Pin's hand.

Pin grabbed his other hand with her's. "Coiny, we will be okay, just-"

"No, I'm leaving," Coiny interrupted, and pulled his hands away, and began walking up to the road.

"Where are you going?!" Leafy asked, feeling nervous as the coin walked up to the road.

"Home... I'm following the road... back home... to get help..."

Firey began following him. "B-but that'll take tons of walking! You'll get tired! A-and how about your truck?"

Coiny scowled. "Oh, the one with a gaping hole in the tire? Yeah! We could definitely use that!"

Firey grabbed onto Coiny's arm. "You can't just leave us! We could find the signal! Quick and easy! We just have to try!"

Coiny tried getting out of the grip. "Shut up! You are an idiot and... you always were! We are not getting anywhere searching for signal, among murderers! Now get off of me!" Coiny yelled, yanking his arm away.

Firey let out a sad squeak, and Pin hummed nervously.

"Let him leave," Leafy said, annoyance in her tone. "He will come back when he realizes how long that'll take..."

"Okay," Pin replied sadly, and Firey muttered, "Fine."

Coiny began walking speedily down the road, not turning back.

The other three watched with upset faces, awkwardly silent.

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After a few awkward minutes, Pin went into the truck for a nap.

Leafy and Firey made the decision to look for the signal.

"I'm sure we will find it!" Leafy said with a smile.

"Y-yeah," Firey said, in a fake happy voice, which Leafy noticed.

"Are you okay? You know nothing Coiny said is true, right?"

Firey sighed, and stayed silent, Leafy growing irritated by the lack of response.

The two eventually got to the lake they were at yesterday. Leafy said, "Oh, let's see if there is signal here!"

Firey stared at the lake. Leafy grew impatient. "Uh, that means check for signal... Firey?"

Firey turned to the leaf. "It was you, wasn't it?"

Leafy was struck with fear. "W-what do you mean?"

"Did you kill Clock? Y-you mentioned... Chopping off his legs... Didn't you?"

Leafy shook her head. "W-why do you... why would I do that?! I-I love you guys..."

Firey grabbed her hand. "Yeah, I know you do, and we love you too, but... You get... mood swings... and you turn evil... But that isn't your fault! Just... did you do that or not..."

Leafy twitched a bit, slipping her hand out of Firey's. "N-no... No! I-it.. He.. I..." Leafy began coughing, and Firey took a few steps back.

"I didn't... do that..." she said coldly. "W-why do people see me that way... why do they base everything on the past..."

Firey watched the leaf cry, and held her hand again.

"Hey, hey, don't cry, it's okay, I... it wasn't you, i shouldn't have thought it was... you changed..." Firey said, then checking his phone for signal.

"No signal," he said, "But it's okay! Maybe by the mountain!"

Leafy rubbed her eyes. She decided to carry out her plan tomorrow.

9

The sky grew dark. Coiny was walking along the road... alone.

He would be walking for a while... including through a desert. Was it worth it?

Yeah, he wasn't about to let some psychopath steal his legs...

Coiny let out a sigh. "This... this will take a while."

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Pin felt as tears rolled down from her eyes. What if she gets murdered? Or one of the others? Where are the others?!

Pin whimpered a bit as she heard footsteps. "S-stay away! D-don't kill me!" She yelled.

"Pin, it's okay, it's just us," Firey said, grabbing her hand reassuringly.

Leafy felt envy sting at her mind, but dismissed it. "Pin, is this because Coiny left?"

Pin nodded, still teary-eyed. Leafy let out a laugh. "Don't worry about him! He will make it back home safely! You said you both walked there before, haven't you?"

Pin laughed nervously, "Y-yeah, I guess you're right... thanks Leafy."

Leafy snickered. "No problem! Oh Firey, why don't we go to sleep?! It is pretty dark out!"

Pin rolled her eyes and went into the truck.

"Oh uh, sure!" Firey replied, still unsure whether he trusted Leafy.

Once everybody got in the truck, Pin locked it so nobody could get in. But nobody could sleep. Leafy waited and waited but... nobody could sleep.

They all were uncomfortable. They all were nervous. None of them felt innocent.

"Leafy, a-aren't you tired? I thought you wanted to sleep?"

"No, I wanted YOU to get sleep... I-I mean, we both should..."

Pin stayed silent, kind of just stuck in her thoughts at the moment. What if Coiny gets lost? And is stuck wandering forever? She would never see him again!

"Leafy I want YOU to sleep first! Ladies first, y'know?"

Leafy scowled. "Fine," she muttered and closed her eyes.

After around a minute she opened them again. Firey was asleep. She smiled, but then saw Pin's reflection on the window. She was awake.

Leafy took another glance at Firey, and then back at Pin. "Pin," she whispered, causing Pin to flinch a bit.

"Y-yeah?" Pin whispered back.

"I feel sick... I'm gonna go throw up..."

"O-oh... let me come with you..."

Leafy and Pin quietly exited the car, and Leafy began to walk off.

"L-lets not go too far, okay?" Pin told Leafy, as the leaf went deeper into the woods.

"Uuuh, we really don't have to go this far!" Pin yelled as Leafy began walking faster, until she finally stopped outside of a cave.

"Look! Isn't it cool?!"

Pin grabbed Leafy's arm. "Th-that looks steep... we are not going in there!"

Leafy grinned, pulling Pin's grip off her. "Of course I'm not!"

"Oh thank goodn-" "But you are!"

Leafy pushed Pin into the hole, into the cave.

"OW! Why'd you do that?!" Pin yelled. Leafy began to walk off.

"L-Leafy?! Leafy! LEAFY THIS ISN'T FUNNY! G-GET BACK HERE! LEAFY!!!"

Leafy grinned. Pin would s u f f e r. She would be stuck down in that cave until she starves! How wonderful!

And now she just had to get rid of Firey.

10

When Leafy woke up Firey was gone. Where was he?

He sure wasn't sleeping in the truck anymore. Leafy exited the truck. "W-where is that- where are you Firey?!"

"Over here," he muttered. He was holding a knife, and Leafy furrowed her eyebrows.

"Why do you have a knife?" she asked, as if she actually didn't know.

"I-I'm sorry... I... Pin locked the doors..." Firey stared at her, concerned for what she would do.

"Oh, well, I... She must have left!" Leafy exclaimed.

"She must've," Firey muttered, still holding the knife. "I'm gonna go find her."

"I'll go with you!"

"I'd rather go alone..."

Leafy scowled. "Oh! So she's your best friend now! I see how it is!"

Firey let out a defeated sigh. "Okay fine you could come."

Leafy followed behind Firey, who speed walked around, his eyes shooting everywhere.

Eventually he looked across the lake area, to see if Pin was possibly on the other side.

"I don't think she's here. She probably left to find Coiny!"

Firey sighed. "Y-yeah, that seems possible."

Leafy stared at the water. She began to laugh. "Oh man, the memories!"

Firey rolled his eyes. "Why do you act so happy? All our friends are getting murdered or lost! There is nothing to be positive about anymore! We are stuck here! Forever!"

Leafy was silent. After a few seconds she took a deep breath. "Why should I not make the best out of this? My life would be much more miserable if I didn't! Do you know how much I hate being here? A lot! But if I pretend I don't, that makes a difference! These woods are... they're something. They were a huge part of my life! They-they were-" Firey was gone. "UGH."

Leafy began running. She wasn't sure where. Where did he go? How did she not notice?

Why did she feel so e v i l?

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Coiny was in the desert, walking. "Ah, such... barren land... ugh this is so boring." He checked for signal. Not yet. Ugh.

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Pin tried to climb up the steep exit to the cave, for what felt like the millionth time, but stumbled down once again.

Her wrist was sprained from when Leafy pushed her down there. She had cuts all over her due to falling on the rocks multiple times.

"S-somebody! Save me! Firey?! Anybody?! Help!"

And then she heard rustling and began to shake nervously.

"Pin? Is that you?" A voice said from a bit away. Firey's voice.

"FIREY! OVER HERE! HELP!"

She heard the footsteps come over quickly, and a hand was waved into the cave's entry.

"Grab on! I'll pull you up!"

"What if I pull you down?"

"Just try!"

Pin reached up and grabbed his hand, wincing remembering her wrist was sprained. She held on though.

"Almost there!" Firey said.

Pin shut her eyes as she began pulling herself up.

And then she fell again. And felt water call down as well.

"Wh-? Water?"

"Ha, you guys are such traitors! So against me... you really thought that idiot would save you? Wrong! Just face it Pin, you are stuck here."

Pin growled. "Well I bet Needle is going to come and find us! A-and she will stop you too!"

Leafy snickered. "Oh if only you had signal! Goodbye Pin... Forever!"

Leafy skipped off and Pin sat down. She was tired of all of this.

11

The next day, Leafy sat near the lake. She was alone. She was... at peace?

She let's out a sigh. "Guess... I'm alone... again..." she felt cold. What to do?

"Its just you and me," she told herself.

"Why did I kill them?" She asked herself.

"They betrayed you," she replied... to herself.

She began crying, realizing she was alone. Once again, it was her fault.

"No, it isn't! It's their fault for treating us so cruelly!"

"Shut up! You always screw everything up! You ruined me! I don't even know who I am anymore!"

"We are one Leafy, and now I will be your only friend, forever, because unlike the others, I care about you."

"I hate you. I HATE YOU. LEAVE. LEAVE ME ALONE. I DON'T WANT TO BE YOUR FRIEND ANYMORE! I HATE YOU! I HATE MYSELF! JUST DIE ALREADY!"

Leafy was twitching. No response. Was she just... talking to herself? Was it really that easy to stop that whole time? Did she only need some self control?

She sobbed. She could've stopped this before it even started. She was a horrible person. She made her way deeper into the forest, not wanting to show her face ever again.

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"N-Needle, I'm scared, what if Sh-she kills us?"

Needle patted Clock comfortingly. "Don't worry, I wouldn't let her do it again."

"I'm glad I left before she got to me," Coiny mumbles. "Thanks for picking me up by the way... I just hope this car doesn't break down... You got the right type of fuel, right Pencil?"

"Yeah, I'm not stupid," Pencil says, rolling her eyes. She had to drive them back to the forest in her supervan.

"Just making sure... My truck kinda just broke down out of nowhere!"

Clock looked over at Coiny. "Sorry if I was kind of rude... I guess I wasn't really in the right state of mind," he mumbles.

"Nah, it's fine! I wasn't really either, but hey, we survived!"

"Oh, Coiny, I think I see your truck!" Pencil says, beginning to pull over. She stops the van on her own, and Clock starts spacing out, an unreleased expression on his face. He had two prosthetic legs, which he wasn't used to yet.

Coiny snickers. "I guess this means Leafy ate my tire," he mumbles amusedly, but then sighs. "I hope Pin is okay... I feel bad for leaving her..."

"She's strong! I'm sure she is out there somewhere!"

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Pin wakes up to the sound of faint conversing in the distance. Some distress, some comforting...

"What if Leafy finds us?" Coiny asks.

"I'll kill her!" Needle says with and angry yet confident tone.

"Wow this is like, the second time she's done something like this,"

Pencil remarks, "Guess people never change!"

Pin got up and began yelling.

"OVER HERE! HELP! ITS PIN!" she yelled as loud as she can, her throat sore from her prior attempts the day before.

"Guys, that sounded like Pin!" Coiny yelled, and began sprinting towards the sound. "Pin! Pin! Pin! Pin!!!! Keep yelling! We're coming!!!"

"COINYYYY!!!! YOU CAME BACK FOR MEEE!!!!"

Coiny was ready to hug Pin, but stopped once coming up to a hole. "Pin?" He looked down AND saw her in the hole.

"COINY PLEASE, WE HAVE TO GET OUT BEFORE LEAFY FIND US!"

Needle and Pencil finally caught up. They made sure Coiny didn't fall down while pulling Pin out of the hole.

Once he pulled her out of the hole, he wrapped his arms around her, hugging her tightly. "I'm sorry for leaving you guys with that monster..."

Needle walked over to the two. "Uuuuh, we still need to find Firey, don't we?"

Pin pulled out of the hug. "H-he tried helping me out of t-the hole but... Leafy poured water on him before I could make it out..."

The thought went shivers down Coiny's spine. Firey did the exact same thing he just did, and was killed while doing it...

"Well, let's leave before Leafy finds us," Pencil stated, starting to walk back towards the road.

"Y-yeah, and let's hurry... you never know when she'll sneak up on you," Pin said, feeling nervous.

The four walked back to the supervan.

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Clock was sitting on the floor of the van, too scared to look out the windows. The supervan was safe and locked, but Leafy had an axe.

He felt hisself begin to sweat. What if the others never came back? How would he get back home? He couldn't drive, that was for sure.

He laid on the floor, his heart racing and his breathing quickening, as he stared at the ceiling, thinking of all the horrible things Leafy would do to him once she found him in there, alive again.

He heard the supervan unlock, and shut his eyes.

"Clock? You okay?"

He opened his eyes to see Coiny kneeled next to him and smiled.

"Oh, thank gosh, you guys made it back! Uh, now lock the van," he says after everybody was in.

Pencil locks the van, and starts it.

"Clock! You're back!" Pin says excitedly.

"Pin!!! You survived Leafy? Dang, that must've been awesome..."

Pin chuckles. "Not really, I was trapped in a hole for a bit! It was pretty lonely without any of you guys..."

"So, you guys still wanna go to Goiky Wonders?" Pencil asks.

Coiny shook his head. "Nah, I kinda wanna head home and relax. Also bring back our pal Firey."

"She killed Firey? Doesn't she care about him though?"

Pin shrugs. "Guess not! She poured a bucket of water on him!"

Coiny looked down at Clock's new legs. He recalled seeing one of his real ones in the forest.

"Clock, uh... sorry we didn't listen right away when you said we

should leave..."

Clock glanced at Coiny. "Oh no, no worries! I'm fine now! Maybe a little... less agile but, I'm just glad we are going home! We are safe now!"

Coiny smiles. "Yeah we are! No more Leafy here to kill us!"

The group rode all the way back to Yoyle City in the supervan, and were finally at peace once again.

ITS OVER!!!

I hope you guys enjoyed this story! It was really fun to write and I'm glad other people liked it too!

I do see potential for a sequel, so if you guys would want that please tell me.

Anyways, thank you for reading, it really means a lot!

♡♡♡Thank you♡♡♡

Thank you guys so much for over 3k reads!! I honestly never expected this silly book to get so popular, and I am really glad people enjoy it! ♡♡♡♡♡

Also, I'd like to point out that I actually did start a sequel of this! It doesn't have a cover yet, but maybe I'll make one eventually... ("The Growing Parasite")

Thanks everybody for reading, and voting, and commenting. It really makes me feel like this book was worth making!

Plenty love- Rhino